

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9229
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCUSAFE
USCINCEUR
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7750

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS/PN, IPS/PE, IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: DEMIREL COMMENTS ON CYPRUS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PRIMIN DEMIREL MET SEPARATELY OCT. 19
WITH GROUPS OF BELGIAN AND SWEDISH JOURNALISTS. PORTIONS OF HIS
REPLIES TO THE BELGIAN JOURNALISTS WERE CARRIED ON TURKISH RADIO
NEWS OCT. 19, AND TRANSCRIPTS OF PORTIONS OF BOTH EXCHANGES ARE
CARRIED IN THE PRESS OCT. 20. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY TRANSLATIONS
OF PORTIONS OF THE TRANSCRIPTS WHICH APPEAR IN TURKISH PRESS OCT. 20.

2. INTERVIEW WITH BELGIAN JOURNALISTS:
QUESTION: WITH TODAY'S COALITION, CAN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND
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THE INTERNAL SITUATION BE RESOLVED?
ANSWER: CYPRUS IS NOT AN INTERNAL QUESTION FOR TURKEY. THERE IS A
PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND GREEK CYPRIOTS ON
CYPRUS. BOTH COMMUNITIES, IN ORDER TO LIVE THERE, MUST DECIDE
TO OVERCOME THE DISAGREEMENTS. WE WANT TO SEE THE TURKISH
COMMUNITY IN CYPRUS LIVE IN SECURITY. THIS IS OUR RIGHT.
OUR GOVERNMENT PROGRAM PROVIDES FOR AGREEMENT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

CYPRUS IS ONLY 50 MILES FROM OUR COAST BUT IS 650 MILES FROM THE COAST OF GREECE. WE HAVE PROPOSED A SOLUTION. WE HAVE SAID THAT A BI-FEDERAL STATE MUST BE ESTABLISHED. THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR STATE. IF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ESTABLISH THEIR STATE, THEN IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE HOW A FEDERAL STATE WILL FUNCTION. TURKEY IS NOT INVOLVED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS; TURKEY IS OUTSIDE OF THEM.

QUESTION: BUT ISN'T ERBAKAN'S PARTY A STUMBLING BLOCK TO AGREEMENT?

ANSWER: THE SOLUTION IS OUTLINED IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. NOBODY CAN SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE SOLUTION AT THE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS. IF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION, IT WILL BE A SOLUTION THAT THIS GOVERNMENT CAN ACCEPT.

QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF UDI?

ANSWER: OUR GOVERNMENT PROGRAM CALLS FOR AN INDEPENDENT FEDERAL CYPRUS STATE. THE GOVERNMENT THAT IS MENTIONED IS THE GOVERNMENT THAT EXISTS TODAY. PARTIES CAN HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS, AND PEOPLE CAN HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT THAT IS IN POWER TODAY MADE ITS OWN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AND ANNOUNCED IT IN PARLIAMENT. WE ARE CARRYING OUT WHAT WAS SAID IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM.

3. EXCHANGE WITH SWEDISH JOURNALISTS:

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LEAVING THE GREEK CYPRIOT SECTION OF VAROSHA AND FAMAGUSTA COMPLETELY EMPTY? WOULD YOU LEAVE THIS TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS?

ANSWER: WE HAVE NO SUCH INTENTION. IT IS LIKE THIS. IT HAS BEEN LEFT EMPTY. NO ONE CAN GET SUCH AN IMPRESSION.

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QUESTION: HOW LONG WILL THE TURKISH ARMY STAY IN CYPRUS?

ANSWER: UNTIL A NEW ORDER IS ESTABLISHED. THAT IS, UNTIL A POLITICAL SOLUTION IS REACHED AND THE PEOPLE THERE ARE NO LONGER THREATENED.

QUESTION: HOW MANY SOLDIERS DO YOU HAVE THERE?

ANSWER: I WON'T COMMENT ON THAT SUBJECT.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU WITHDRAWN A PORTION OF THE SOLDIERS FROM THE ISLAND?

ANSWER: YES, WE HAVE WITHDRAWN A PORTION. CYPRUS, IN ALL ITS HISTORY, HAS NEVER BEEN AS CALM AS IT IS NOW.

QUESTION: DO YOU SUPPORT DENKTASH'S POLICY?

ANSWER: AS DENKTASH HAS SAID, IT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED THAT THERE IS ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF THE TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS AND THOSE OF TURKEY. THEREFORE, IT IS NORMAL THAT THE POLICIES OF TURKEY AND DENKTASH ARE IN HARMONY.

QUESTION: IS THE CYPRUS QUESTION A BURDEN FOR TURKEY?

ANSWER: I THINK WE CAN CARRY IT. IN THE SITUATION THAT EXISTS TODAY, WE CAN CARRY IT. CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE BETTER IF AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED.

QUESTION: HAS THE PROBLEM STOPPED YOUR ECONOMIC PROGRESS?

ANSWER: CERTAINLY IT HAS AFFECTED IT; HOWEVER, NOT SO MUCH THAT WE CANNOT ENDURE IT.

4. IN BOTH MEETINGS, DEMIREL ALSO WAS ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. IN BOTH CASES HE REPLIED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PROBLEMS EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT ASSERTING TURKEY'S DESIRE TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS BY PEACEFUL MEANS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: IN ANSWERING JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS, DEMIREL OFTEN EMPLOYS DELIBERATELY VAGUE LANGUAGE COMMONLY KNOWN AS DEMIRELESE (SULEYMANCA). FOR THIS REASON, HIS COMMENTS ARE OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD AND CAN BE EASILY DISTORTED. WHILE WE CANNOT BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT DEMIREL WAS NOT RPT NOT FORECLOSING THE POSSIBILITIES OF FURTHER TROOP WITHDRAWALS PRIOR TO A FINAL SETTLEMENT AND OF RETURNING AT LEAST PART OF VAROSHA AS PART OF THE FINAL SETTLEMENT, WE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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INCLINED TO THINK THAT HIS ANSWERS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN EFFORT OF OBFUSCATION RATHER THAN AN ASSERTION OF INFLEXIBILITY. END CONFIDENTIAL. SPIERS

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